

REMARKS/ARGUMENTSClaim History

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner also objected to claims 1-3 for informalities.

Status

Claims 1 through 4 have been cancelled by the present amendment and claims 5 through 24 have been added. Claims 5-24 will remain for further consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter, Otherwise Allowable Claims

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims. The indication of this allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-4 have been canceled and new claims 5-24 have been added to provide a more definite statement of Applicant's invention. The cancellation of the prior claims and the addition of the new claims should obviate these grounds for objection and rejection including range limitations, paragraph numbering and improper claim referral.

The claims as amended should remain allowable over the art of record.

Summary

Applicants have made a diligent and bona fide effort to answer each and every ground for rejection or objection to the specification including the claims and to place the application in condition for final disposition. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested, and for the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition to be passed to issue and such action is earnestly solicited. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Robert N. Blackmon, Applicants' Attorney at 703-684-5633 to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Dated: March 8, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Robert N. Blackmon
Reg. No. 39494
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

Merek, Blackmon & Voorhees, LLC
673 S. Washington St.
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Tel. 703-684-5633
Fax. 703-684-5637
E-mail: RNB@BlackmonLaw.com